

Mr. Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai: These resolutions must be taken in the order in which they are printed on the agenda.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Sir, I rise to move that "this Council recommends to Government that in view of the abnormal price of all necessities, particularly rice and kerosene oil, all Government servants drawing a pay of Rs. 15 and less per mensem and the teachers of all grant-in-aid schools be given a dearness allowance amounting to not less than 12½ per cent. of their salary till one year after the termination of the present war."

Sir, while congratulating the Government on the steps they have already taken for affording relief by way of a dearness allowance to the extent of Re. 1 to all Government servants who draw a pay of Rs. 14 and below, I have to request the Government to extend this dearness allowance not only to those who draw a pay of Rs. 14 but also to those who draw Rs. 15 and below and to go still further and give the same allowance to all teachers of the grant-in-aid schools. Some honourable members may ask me why I have fixed on Rs. 15 and my answer to them is that I have taken this criterion because on more than one occasion many honourable members of this House have pointed out that the lowest pay of a Government servant must be fixed at Rs. 15.

Mr. Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai: Is there any Government servant who draws Rs. 15 as salary?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Yes, there are many.

The Director of Public Instruction might at this time turn up and ask me what has Government to do with teachers of the grant-in-aid schools. I do realise that they are not strictly speaking Government servants. But if you look at it, indirectly they also can be called Government servants because they do not, as I understand, get anything more than what is given as grant-in-aid to each school through the Managers. Very often their lot is still worse.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I ask whether in many cases they are not Government servants' servants?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Yes, in certain cases, that is the truth and I am glad that the honourable member has pointed that out.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: Has not the Government consented to give a dearness allowance of Re. 1 to those who receive a salary below Rs. 15?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: I have already conceded the point raised by my honourable friend and Government have already allotted Rs. 2 lakhs for that purpose.

According to the Education Code, the grant-in-aid allowed for a teacher in the past was Rs. 8½ and I understand that it is still the same. But I do not know how they are given only Rs. 8 at present. Perhaps the Director of Public Instruction may have a G. O. with him saying that he need give only Rs. 8. Whatever that may be, the lot of the poor grant-in-aid school teacher is very very hard. The age of slavery is over. But I must say that compared with the lot of these grant-in-aid school teachers they may be called "Scholastic helots". If the helots were territorial slaves of ancient Sparta these persons may be called scholastic helots or helots of the Education Department. I concede that some of the managers are very honest and sympathetic. But most of the managers are tyrants, not in the Greek sense.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: May I know what the member means by "Greek sense"?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Sir, according to Greek history *ie.* as understood in ancient Greece "tyranny is monarchy used for the benefit of the monarch".

President: That is all right. The honourable member need not worry about those things.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: After attaining a sufficient degree of culture, without being able to obtain any avocation for job under Government, these grant-in-aid school teachers fall at the feet of these managers and they are given something with which they have to earn a living. Sir, imagine the difficulty of a poor man with a sufficiently big family to find a living with only 8 siccar rupees. He has to meet all his wants with this amount. He has to feed himself, feed his wife and children and find funds for the education of his children. Very often the majority of these grant-in-aid school teachers have nothing, except their salary, to fall back upon. They are more or less very often depending only on what they get from Government. Hence they may be called Government servants.

Mr. P. I. Simon: May I know whether these grant-in-aid school teachers do not undertake private tuition?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Yes, against the rules. Even departmental school teachers, I understand, are imparting tuition and earning something, not in rural areas but in such urban areas like the City of Trivandrum, Quilon, Alleppey etc.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan (Nominated): ഗവണ്മെന്റ് സ്കൂളുകളിലെ ടീച്ചർമാർക്ക് പ്രൈവറ്റ് ട്യൂഷൻ നൽകാൻ അനുമതിയുണ്ടോ? (May I know whether the Government school teachers are allowed to give private tuition?)

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : ഞാൻ ഇതുവരെ മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ളിടത്തോളം അങ്ങനെ ഒരു കൂട്ടർ ഉണ്ടെന്നാണ് ധരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : ഗവണ്മെന്റുടേയ്ക്കു സമാനമായ സാധാരണ പബ്ലിക് സർവ്വൻസ് ഏതല്ലേ വിളിക്കാറുള്ളത്?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : രണ്ടും വിളിക്കാറുണ്ട്.

Having enumerated the classes of employees to whom this dearness allowance should be given I shall now pass on to consider the number of hands and the amount of money necessary for an year. On enquiry I have received the following figures. The total number of Government employees drawing a pay of Rs. 15 in round figures is 2000. The total number of Government employees drawing a pay of Rs. 14 and below is 12,600. The total number of grant-in-aid school teachers is 11000. Working out the scheme, the total amount necessary for each class, for those who get Rs. 15, at 12½ per cent. as I have pointed out in my resolution, it comes to Rs. 22,500. The second class, that is those who get Rs. 14 and below, it comes to Rs. 2,26,800. The third class, that is grant-in-aid school teachers, it comes to Rs. 13,200. On the whole it comes to Rs. 3,81,300. Making allowance for the variations due to increase in the salary of employees as per their scale during the year and for the extra amount necessary for the Headmasters of the private schools who get not Rs. 8 but more than Rs. 8 and the small amount necessary for rounding i.e. Rs. 18,700, we get the round figure of Rs. 4,00,000.

Mr. M. Govindan : May I know from the member whether there should be some proportion between the contribution of the Government and the management or whether the Government have to shoulder the whole responsibility?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : Sir, there is a fiction that the managers contribute something to the pay of private school teachers. But very often the truth is that in 99 cases out of 100 the grant-in-aid school teacher does not get even a single pie from managers other than the grant given by Government.

Sir, by levying an additional cess of 8 annas per cwt. on rubber exported from this country it has been pointed out clearly in this House by the Financial Secretary that a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 can be raised. So what we require is only another 2 lakhs.

I shall now find out the ways and means for raising this amount of Rs. 2 lakhs with which the dearness allowance, as I have proposed in my resolution, may be given. Of late, Sir, there has been a steady increase in the output of tea and in the quantity exported. The price of tea has also increased and the lowest variety of it now fetches Re. 1 per pound.

Mr. T. W. U. Park : Question.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : So, as in the case of rubber a cess can be levied on tea, say, one pie per pound. This will bring in a revenue of Rs. 2 lakhs and more.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : May I point out to the honourable member that the question of taxation can be safely left to the Financial Secretary?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : There is no doubt that the Financial Secretary can deal with such matters. But the Members of this House are equally entitled to deal with such matters under certain circumstances particularly when it concerns them. According to the statistics the amount of tea exported during 1116 is more than 37 million pounds. This year because the price has gone up and as there is much difficulty in the matter of getting tea from certain quarters which have fallen into enemy hands there is the chance of a brisk trade. And this step of levying an additional cess is proposed only as a temporary one. When the war is over and the prices reach the normal level we can take off this cess. So I would emphatically urge upon the attention of Government to consider whether an additional cess on the unearned increment of profit which was not designed by the cultivators of tea may not be levied under the present circumstances. They must also consider the fact that by this measure they will be able to raise an additional amount of Rs. 2 lakhs and more as revenue and there will not be any difficulty of providing for a dearness allowance of not less than 12½ per cent. to all those Government servants who are drawing Rs. 15 and less and to the grant-in-aid school teachers as required in the resolution. With this request I commend this resolution to the unanimous acceptance of this House.

Mr. M. Govindan : In view of the fact that the resolution has stated that this allowance should be given only for the duration of the war, may I know from the honourable member when the war will end?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : I have not said anything about the duration of the war.

Mr. M. Govindan : Sir, the resolution has got this clause: "till one year after the termination of the present war." The first portion says that the dearness allowance should be given for the duration of the present war.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : I do not understand the logic of my honourable friend.

Mr. M. Govindan : I was only asking for information with regard to the total period of the duration of the war.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : The allowance is needed only for the duration whatever it may be of the war plus one year.

Mr. M. Govindan : What is honourable Member's forecast with regard to the period of the war?

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : Not only myself; No one can make any forecast about it.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : ഇന്നത്തെ ജീവൽ പ്രശ്നങ്ങളിൽ ഒന്നാണ് അല്പശമ്പളക്കാരുടെ വേതനം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളത്. ഇവിടെ സമർപ്പിതമായിരിക്കുന്ന പ്രമേയത്തിൽ നിദ്ദേശിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന കാര്യം എത്രമേൽ ആവശ്യമുള്ളതും പൊതുസമ്മതി ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതുമാണെന്നു ഈ സഭയിൽ ആരുംഭയമുതൽ ഇന്നുവരെ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള പ്രതിപാദനങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും വെളിവാകുന്നുണ്ട്. നിസ്സാര വേതനംകൊണ്ട് കഷ്ടതയിൽ കഴിയേണ്ടവരായ അദ്ധ്യാപകന്മാരിൽ നിന്നു നേരിട്ടും അല്ലാതെയും ജനപ്രതിനിധികളായ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു നിയമസഭായോഗത്തിന്റെ ആരംഭമുതൽ പല കുത്തുകളും അഭ്യർത്ഥനകളും കിട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ചെറുതരം ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്നവരും നിസ്സാരശമ്പളം പറ്റിക്കൊണ്ട് അദ്ധ്യാപകവൃത്തി അനുഷ്ഠിച്ചു വരുന്നവരുമായ അസംഖ്യം ആളുകളുടെ ഇന്നത്തെ നില വളരെ പരിതാപകരമാണ്. പൊതുജനസേവനം ചെയ്ത് രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ രക്ഷക്കും അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കും വേണ്ടിയതിരിക്കുന്നവർക്ക് ജീവിക്കുന്നതിനു ആവശ്യം വേണ്ട ശമ്പളം കിട്ടാതിരിക്കുന്നതു ഈ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ നിലക്കു ഒട്ടും അഭിമാനകരമല്ല. സർ, നമ്മുടെ നാട് ധർമ്മരാജ്യമെന്നും ഓർവിതരുടെ അഭയസ്ഥാനമെന്നും അപരാഭിധാനങ്ങളോടു കൂടിയതാണ്. ആക്രമണഭയത്താൽ ഇവിടെ എത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള വൈദേശികർക്ക് യഥായോഗ്യം പാപ്പിടങ്ങളും ആഹാരത്തിനുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളും നൽകി രക്ഷിക്കുകയെന്ന മഹനീയപാരമ്പര്യത്തോടുകൂടിയതാണ് വഞ്ചിഭേദം. ഇവിടത്തെ സാധുക്കളായ അൽപശമ്പളക്കാർക്ക് സഹായംചെയ്യേണ്ടതു് രാജ്യക്ഷേമത്തിനും സഭയ്ക്കുശസ്തിനും അപരിത്യാജ്യമാണു്. ഒരു ജനപ്രതിനിധിയുടെ നിലയിൽ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സുക്ഷ്മസ്ഥിതി പഠിക്കുകയും സാധുക്കളുടെ യഥാർത്ഥസങ്കടങ്ങൾ ഗ്രഹിക്കുകയും ജനക്ഷേമത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ദീർഘകാലം അനുജ്ഞാശമ്പളം നൽകുകയും സേവനമനുഷ്ഠിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ഈ നാട്ടുകാരനായ അങ്ങ് ഭരണാധിപനായിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ ഘട്ടത്തിൽ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പർ മി. കെ. എം. കേശവൻ ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തിലെ അഭ്യർത്ഥന യഥോചിതം പ്രവൃത്തിരൂപ

ത്തിൽ കൊണ്ടു വരുന്നതിനു മടിക്കുകയില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: അപ്പോഴപ്പോൾ മേധാവികളായി വരുന്ന ആളുകളെ കനകംപൊഴിയും കാമിനിമാരെപ്പോലെ സ്തുതിശീതം ചെയ്ത് സന്തോഷിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നവരാണ് ഇവിടത്തെ മെമ്പർമാരിൽ അധികവും എന്ന് മെമ്പർ മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan: സർ, പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ നന്മയെക്കുറിച്ച് യാതൊരു ചിന്തയുമില്ലാതെ മണിക്കൂറുതോറും അഭിപ്രായംമാറി സ്വകാര്യസാധ്യം ഉന്നാവച്ചുകൊണ്ടു അവസരസേവകന്മാരായി കഴിയുന്നവരും മെമ്പർമാരുടെ കൂട്ടത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടെന്നു സാമാന്യജനങ്ങൾപോലും ധരിച്ചുവെച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ജനപ്രതിനിധികളുടെ നിവേദനങ്ങൾകൊണ്ട് യാതൊരു ഫലവുമുണ്ടാകുന്നില്ലെന്നും നിയമസമിതികളിലെ തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ ഗവണ്മെന്റു ആദരിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു പരക്കെ പരാതി ഉണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ട്. പ്രതിപാദ്യമായിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ പ്രമേയത്തിലെ ആദർശം ഗവണ്മെന്റു അംഗീകരിച്ചുപ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതായാൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെയിടയിൽ സമാധാനവും സഹകരണവായ്ക്കും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതാണ്. യുദ്ധാരംഭം മുതൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റു ചെയ്യുപോരുന്ന നിഷ്പർഷമായ ചട്ടംകെട്ടുകളെപ്പോലും അതിലംഘിച്ചു ഇവിടെ അരിവില ദൈനംദിനം വർദ്ധിച്ചുകൊണ്ടാണിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഏതെങ്കിലും വിഷയകമായി ജനങ്ങളിൽ കടന്നുകൂടിയിട്ടുള്ള ഭയചിന്തകളെ അകറ്റുന്നതിനുള്ള പരിഹാരം പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞദിവസം ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ച അടിയന്തിരപ്രമേയത്തെ തുടർന്ന് അധികാരസ്ഥാനത്തു നിന്നു കർശന നടപടികൾക്കു വേണ്ട ഉൾജിത മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ കൈവരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഇന്നു രാവിലെ കിട്ടിയ ദീപികയിലെ ചങ്ങനാശ്ശേരി വാർത്തയിൽ അവിടത്തെ അരിവില ൨൦ രൂപയായെന്നു കാണുന്നു. നിയമപ്രാബല്യംകൊണ്ട് ഈ നില തുടരാൻ ഇടയാകുകയില്ലെങ്കിലും അരിവില യുദ്ധപരിതസ്ഥിതിയിൽ അൽപ്പാൽപ്പം കൂടാനെത്തുമുള്ളു. അതുകൊണ്ടാണു കീഴ്ജ്യാഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെയും അദ്ധ്യാപകന്മാരുടെയും ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടിക്കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു വാദിക്കാൻ നിർബന്ധം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നത്. ശമ്പളം കുറഞ്ഞവർക്കു ഒരു വൻകുടുംബം സംരക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ട്. വ്യക്തമായ കിട്ടുന്ന ഒരു ശമ്പളം കിട്ടുന്ന ഒരു ശിപായിയും എങ്ങനെയാണു ഒരു സാധാരണ കുടുംബത്തെപ്പോലും പോറ്റിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നത്.

[Mr. Thomas Chandy Muckadan.]

ഗ്രാൻറ് സ്കൂൾ അദ്ധ്യാപകന്മാരെക്കുറിച്ച് നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അവർക്കായി അനുവദിക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള സഹായധനമല്ലാതെ മറ്റെന്തെങ്കിലും അവർക്ക് പ്രായേണ കിട്ടാറില്ല. ശമ്പളബില്ലിൽ ഒപ്പിട്ടുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിൽ തുലോം തുച്ഛമായ ഒരു സംഖ്യയാണ് ഇന്ന് മിക്ക മാനേജരന്മാരും വാല്യോന്മാർക്ക് കൊടുത്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഇതിനു ഒരു പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതു അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. കുറഞ്ഞ ശമ്പളക്കാരുടെ ശമ്പളക്കൂടുതലിനു അവശ്യം വേണ്ടിവരുന്ന ചെലവു പൊതുപ്പിരിവു നടത്തി ഫണ്ട് ശേഖരിച്ച് നിർവഹിച്ചാലും തരക്കേടില്ല. ഇക്കാലത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ പ്രേരണയും ചിന്തയുടെയും ഒഴിച്ചുകൂടാത്തതാണ്. ഇവിടെ അൽപ്പശമ്പളക്കാരുടെ ഗണത്തിൽപ്പെടുന്നവരാണ് രാജ്യക്ഷേമത്തിനും പൊതുരക്ഷക്കും വേണ്ട പ്രഥമസേവനം ചെയ്യുന്നവരും ഭാവിപൗരന്മാരെ ഒരുക്കുന്നവരും. ഇക്കൂട്ടർ ഈ വിഷമസന്ധിയിൽ പട്ടിണികിടന്നു കിഴിപ്പടാനിടയാകുന്നത് ഒരു തരത്തിലും ആദരണീയമോ ആശാസ്യമോ അല്ല. അതിനാൽ പ്രമേയത്തിൽ ഉന്നയിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന പ്രകാരം മന്ദ്രപാലം ശമ്പളമുള്ള സകലരും അദ്ധ്യാപകനോ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനോ എന്നുള്ള ഭേദം കൂടാതെ ൧൨ ശതമാനം ശമ്പളക്കൂടുതൽ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നുള്ള പ്രകടമായ അഭിപ്രായത്തോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ പ്രമേയത്തെബലമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar : Sir, the Government are fully alive to the hardships undergone by the Government servants on low salaries. They have made only a beginning by the proposal to grant a dearness allowance of Re. 1 per mensem to subordinates on a pay less than Rs. 15 per month. It has already been mentioned by the previous Dewan-President in his statement on the Budget for 1118 at page 21 that this relief may not be considered sufficient and Government will not be slow to know when relief is necessary and also will not be slow to afford the relief when it is found to be necessary. The question however will receive the careful consideration of Government and steps will be taken to afford the necessary further relief consistent with the financial position. As regards the aided school teachers the Director of Public Instruction will deal with the matter.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Muckadan : ഇപ്പോൾ വായിച്ചതായ അഭിപ്രായം അനുസരിച്ച് രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥിതിയ്ക്ക് വ്യത്യാസം വന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിനും വല്ല മാറ്റവും വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു സദയം പ്രസ്താവിക്കാമോ?

President : ഓവസം ചെല്ലത്തോറും മാറാം വരുമെന്നാണല്ലോ പറയുന്നത്.

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : Sir, the position of aided primary school teachers is well known and the graphic description given by the honourable members has only accentuated that impression. I am therefore not called upon to speak any further on that aspect of the problem. But one or two sides of the question have not been adequately comprehended. There are teachers in aided schools who do not get an aid of Rs. 8 even. There are aided school teachers to whom the grant given is only Rs. 5, or 6 or 7, so that we have a large number of teachers who deserve much more help than the teachers who get Rs. 8 and more. And there are teachers of aided private schools who do not get anything, any aid at all. Sir, there are 1500 teachers who are not paid any aid or grant. Their case certainly deserves first consideration.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : Is it a matter of self-satisfaction to the Government that there are so many volunteer workers in the State for educational causes ?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : Government are not satisfied with it. But the Government were surprised that the honourable members of this House made no reference to them. Sir, as the Head of the Education Department I was all along expecting from them some word of sympathy for those teachers who did not get anything from Government. That is my point. Government would have been glad if their case had received consideration at the hands of the honourable members of this House. Certainly it is not my intention to controvert the need for giving help to low paid subordinates of Government, and the need to help all the workers in the social and economic sphere who are not adequately rewarded. In the case of teachers particularly, I can testify to their good work; I can testify to their pitiable condition. But I am far from saying that the calculations now made meet with the actual requirements of the case. It was stated that something like Rs. 4 lakhs is the amount required for the purpose of giving adequate relief. I think it will come to much more than that. But I am glad that the Government are prepared to consider the question as a whole and to bring adequate relief, at least to the extent that is now proposed, to all classes of public servants including the private school teachers who receive no kind of aid from Government. But I have to make some further remarks. As I have already told the House there are teachers who get nothing at present and they will have to be given prior consideration. Again, Government will have to take into account, whatever honourable members might say, the fact that this allowance once given will be difficult to take away. The present

[Mr. A. Gopala Menon.]

war may last for another two or three years ; then the depression will set in and that will last for another four years or more. By that time things may change. Therefore my submission is that any pie that is added to the grant that is given to the aided school teacher today is bound to become a permanent addition and to the extent to which that amount increases, poor teachers who get nothing today will be hard hit, if they do not also share in the present distribution of aid. This would not be possible unless there is an increased amount made available. These two sides of the question will have to be weighed before Government can decide the extent of the help to be given and the nature of the help too. I trust that this assurance on my part will satisfy the honourable members of this House.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : Will they consider the possibility of allowing managements to raise fees from the children of well-to-do parents in respect of primary education ?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : Sir, the Government have given the assurance that primary education will be free. Any step which goes back upon that promise would be retrograde and would be dishonourable too.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : May I know whether Government's allegiance to that abstract principle is higher morally than allowing the teachers to starve ?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : Sir, my views on the question are very well known and I am not prepared to be drawn in by the honourable member's insinuation. All Governments owe allegiance to abstract principles ; all public representatives too owe allegiance to abstract principles. There is no meaning in sneering at the allegiance to abstract principles on the part of anybody. The Government are fully aware that private school teachers are not starved and how they make both ends meet is not a mystery to them. So there is no meaning in telling Government that they are starving and that the idea of free primary education is only an abstract principle. Government have to the best of their resources given effect to this principle and they propose to continue to carry it out.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : May I know from Government whether the concession in the matter of rice supply will be extended to the aided school teachers as well before Government finally decide upon the question of dearness allowance ?

President : That is only of a temporary character. So long as we have got a few bags, that will be given only to the menial staff including of course the school masters. After all that is not a measure general in character. If you feel that some of the school

masters of the Aided Schools should get that, there is absolutely no objection to that being done.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : It will be great thing if that is done to those Aided School teachers.

Mr. M. Govindan : Incidentally it was pointed out by one member while speaking on this subject that Aided School managers are getting signatures from teachers for more pay than they are actually giving. If so, may I know whether such instances have come to the notice of the Director and whether steps have been taken to eliminate such practices?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : Instances have come to the notice of the Director and he has made enquiries and found them to be true and as a consequence justice has been done to the parties concerned.

President : Still such things continue ; it has become a necessary evil as it were.

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : Hence, there is no meaning in saying that it should be stopped and all that. I have already dealt with this matter on former occasions.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : അങ്ങനെയുള്ള കനയങ്ങളിൽ ഒന്നെങ്കിലും കണ്ടുപിടിക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : ചിലത് കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അല്പകാരമുള്ളവരെ ശിക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : ഇല്പകാരമുള്ളവരെ മാത്രമായോ ഗുണമായ വിധം ശിക്ഷിച്ചിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ ഇതിന് ഒരു പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാകുമായിരുന്നു.

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചാൽ കുറ്റം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളവരുടെ ഗ്രാൻറു പിൻവലിക്കുക മുതലായ ശിക്ഷകളാണ് നിശ്ചയിക്കാവുന്നത് അതിൽ കൂടുതൽ ഒന്നും ചെയ്യാനില്ല.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : Sir, in view of the re-assuring replies given by the Financial Secretary and the Director of Public Instruction, I request the honourable member to withdraw his resolution and in doing so, I must say that I am certainly grateful to the Government for the assurance that they have given to this honourable House that they will consider this question. I cannot omit stating this fact before the House. I have heard it said that in the ancient Judea, men condemned to death had to bear the wooden cross. I am reminded of it when the Director of Public Instruction who said that he was full of sympathies for the school Masters and who certainly from his position as the Director of Public Instruction has to recommend to Government

[Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi.]

for an enhancement of salaries of teachers and increment to the grant in aid, is compelled to bear the wooden cross of Government's negation more or less in disguised form. That is inherent in the constitution of the Legislature, I am not expected to speak anything about it because the dual, multiple personality of the members on the Treasury Bench has to be very sympathetically considered before we go through the statement on a particular matter. With these words I appeal to my honourable friend to withdraw his resolution.

Mr. T. K. Kitten : ഈ പ്രമേയം പിൻവലിക്കണമെന്നു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഒരു മെമ്പർ ശുപാർശ ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഞാൻ അതു പിൻവലിക്കരുതെന്നാണ് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നത്.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : Sir, I am very thankful to the honourable members who spoke on behalf of the Government. The Financial Secretary reiterated the words contained in the statement of the Dewan President and assures the House that if the provision for the grant of dearness allowance is found insufficient, steps will be taken to augment it. I am thankful for that assurance.

As for the case of the Aided School teachers, I am very much indebted to the statement made by the Director. He informed the honourable House that there are as many as 1500 grant-in-aid school teachers who absolutely get nothing. I thought that there were only a few of that type. But I never thought that their number would swell to such an extent. If that is a fact, I would request Government to allot more money for grant-in-aid purposes and that unless Government view this resolution with sympathy, nothing tangible could be scored on behalf of the poor Aided school teachers who are already ill-paid. Since the Government assure the House that necessary steps will be taken for the amelioration of the distress of this kind, I beg the permission of the House to withdraw my resolution.

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

RESOLUTION RE: CERTIFICATE BY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING MOTOR JOURNEY.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla : Sir, I move the following resolution:

"This Council recommends to Government that in view of the difficulty of private car owners to secure petrol, the rule that the Council members should certify that they use cars in connection with their journey for Council sessions be cancelled.

It is with a certain amount of diffidence that I introduce this resolution. Honourable members, for example my honourable